(c) what is the number of post offices in the country and how many of them are served by ED employees; and

(d) what is the number of ED employees at present under 'Pay-off' duty for more than four months and the average subsistence allowance being paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. The question of grant of subsistence allowance to E.D. employees put-off duty was considered but it was not found feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of post office in the country as on 31.3.1988 is 1,44,829 out of which 1,19,648 are manned by E.D. employees.

(d) As on 1.11.1987, the number of ED employees put-off duty for more than four months is 3676. No subsistence allowance is paid to ED employees for the put-off duty period.

Import of Insecticides

1539. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has allowed or recommended the ad-hoc import of restricted insecticides, fungicides and weedicides by private parties/companies; if so, what are the details thereof, productwise and company-wise along with the quantity imported during the last one year till date by each party/company; and

(b) what are the norms and conditions laid down by Government for such ad-hoc import of these items?

TH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The imports are governed by the Import Policy of the Govt. of India. In this policy, there is a list of restricted items whose imports can be allowed subject to observance of the relevant provisions of the Import Policy. In the case of insecticides fungicider and weedicides, which are registered under the Insesctcides Act the imports are recommended keeping in view the demand and indigenous availability of the product. Adhoc imports were recommended during the last one year for the following items:

1. *Carbaryl*

Gujarat Agro-Industries Corpn. 500 MT

Bharat Pulverising Mills Pvt. Itd. 100 MT

2. *Diuron*

Bharat Pulverising Mills Pvt. Ltd. 25 MT

Production of Insecticides, Fungicides and Herbicides

1540. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the technical grade of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides which are being produced in the country along with the names of the manufacturing companies, their installed capacity and the actual production, product-wise and company-wise during the last one year; and

(b) what are the names of the parties which have been granted letter of intent/industrial licence and also of parties whose applications are pending for manufacturing of technical grade of pesticides during the last two years, party-wise/product-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The required information to the extent it is available, is given in the enclosed statements I and II. (*See* below) Company-wise data is not mointored by this Department.